to the information of Bombay market prices furnished by the Textile Commissioner, between 24.1.87 and 25.7.87, the prices of cotton cone yarn of 40s count has gone up from Rs. 37.83 to Rs. 42.26 per kg. which represents an increase of 12%.

(b) and (c) The export of cotton hosiery have not been affected on account of the price rise. According to information furnished by Apparel Export Promotion Council, the exports of cotton hosiery amounted to Rs. 151 crores in the period January-May, 87 against the exports of Rs. 71 crores during the corresponding period last year, representing an increase of 113%.

Death of an Indian author in USA

1748. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the death of an Indian author and writer in Gridley, Californisa, USA in August 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Embassy in Washington informed the relatives of the author in India;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) whether the property and other assets of the author have been allowed to be sent to India to his relatives by the US authorities through the Indian Embassy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dr. Ram Chandra Jha, an Indian author died in Gridley, California, USA in August, 1986 due to illness.

(c) No, Sir. The Indian Embassy was not informed of the death by the local authorities. They came to know of it from the relatives of the deceased, who were informed direct by the US authorities.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The relatives have been informed that as the deceased author died insolvent, the personal effects can be sent to them provided they meet the transportation costs.

Government purchases

1749. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments as well as the DGS&D buy non-ISI certified products despite Central Government's directive to make purchases of ISI marked products as far as possible; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) The State Governments have only been advised at the level of Chief Secretaries and Chief Ministers in July, 1986 and February, 1987 respectively for increased purchases of ISI marked goods. No monitoring of information about products purchased by State Governments is undertaken by the Central Government. A few State Governments have, however, intimated that they have instructed their Departments to follow the advice of the Central Government for increased purchases of ISI marked goods.

From May, 1986, as a matter of policy, the DGS&D are required to purchase ISI marked products, and to adhere to ISI specifications in cases of non-availability of ISI marked products. DGS&D have, however, to go in for non-ISI marked products in some cases for reasons like (i) non-availability of ISI marked goods, (ii) uncompetitive

prices of ISI marked goods, (iii) compliance to indentors' specifications, (iv) specially earmarked sources of supply like KVIC, NTC etc.

India's trade with Yugoslavia

1750. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's trade with Yogoslavia has declined;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of Indias exports to Yogoslavia during the period from January to May, 1987 as against the annual target set for the exchange of goods between the two countries;

(c) what is the anticipated trade deficit by the end of the current year with the current trend of trade; and

(d) what are the major causes for decline in the country's trade with Yogoslavia and what measures are contemplated by Government to push up the exports to achieve the annual target set for the exchange of goods between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) India's trade with Yugoslavia during the last three years has been as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

	1984-85 (P)	1985-86 (P)	1986-87 (P)
Exports	21.68	23.29	71.42
Imports	58.89	75.97	102.28
Total turn over	80.57	99.26	173.70

(P—Provisional)

The trade turnover has gone up by more than two times in the last three years. DGCIS data for trade turnover between January-May, 1987, has not been finalised. No projection on trade balance with Yugoslavia has been made for 1987. However, efforts are made to develop balanced trade. It is proposed to increase the level of trade to US $200 million during January-December, 1987. Continuous efforts are being made to promote our exports to Yugoslavia. These efforts include exchange of visits/delegations, participation in trade fairs, strengthening of linked deal mechanism, furthering mutual industrial cooperation & exploring possibilities of entering into long term contracts.

Activities of Wasteland Development Board

1751. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the activities of the Wasteland Development Board came to a standstill because of the opposition from the Ministry; and

(b) what was the target fixed for reclamation of wasteland and the success achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.